

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL



STATE BOARD MEETING DATE June 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Authorization of the Arizona Skill Standards Commission to serve as the oversight of the Career and Technical Education Assessment System

SUBMITTED BY: Barbara Border on behalf of Milton D. Ericksen

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: June 7, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: *see attachment which contains more complete detailed information related to the Arizona Career and Technical Education Assessment System*

The Arizona Joint Technological Education District (JTED) Legislation, HB 2700, was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor during the summer of 2006. A.R.S. § 15-391-3 (d)(e) requires that CTE (JTED) programs lead to industry certification. Currently, 5946 courses comprise this system that lead to 85 occupational programs/options in Arizona.

The Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006 and the US Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, requires that industry assessments be implemented for secondary and postsecondary students [Sec.113] at the “end of program,” for each level.

Arizona is embarking on development of a statewide system to ensure validity and reliability of the assessments offered. Local districts are not able to provide end of program assessments that are industry validated and meet the state standards criteria without a great deal of cost per district. Now, a statewide effort is underway to provide valid and reliable assessments for the 85 programs/occupational options. Forty-three of these will be developed before the spring of 2008. This date is required by the JTED legislation. The federal legislation requires that significant progress is made by spring 2008.

The Arizona Department of Education-Career and Technical Education and Arizona State University-Workforce Education and Development Office are partners with the CTE Section in creating and implementing the assessment system.

Three additional groups are essential to the success of the Arizona Career and Technical Education (CTE) Assessment System. These are detailed in the attached materials on the Arizona Career and Technical Education Assessment System. The groups include:

- The Arizona Skill Standards Commission
- The Stakeholders Committee
- The business and industry associations and industry validation committees

The Arizona Skill Standards Commission:

This entity will have high level representatives of major Arizona industries and business, power brokers, legislative representatives, and others that encourage business growth.

This group will approve the assessments, grant certificates to students who successfully complete the examinations, and give leadership to the multiple groups working together for this system.

The Skill Standards Commission will be a conduit to industry in Arizona to establish “value added” for the certificates, the assessments, and the programs that students attend.

The Skill Standards Commission will provide public relations to various publics.

This group will preside over the standards and assessment process, with authority to recognize the certificates to be provided.

The industry standards are being validated by Arizona industry and business workers and further validated and endorsed by respective business associations. This will provide the basis for the item banks to be developed and again reviewed by business and industry. Each set of standards, measurements, and item banks will go to the Skill Standards Commission for final approval.

It is a very important role to have a body to become the liaison to business and industry and education. The Skill Standards Commission will provide a rigorous and recognized structure of standards, measurements, and assessments; thus ensuring stellar programs.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [X] INFORMATION [] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []